



# Nevada Historical Society



## Society News



### Meet our newest Staff member—

My name is Karalea Clough and I am excited to join the team of professionals at the Society as a library technician. I have lived in Reno for twelve years and I have a twenty year old son named Zack. I

transferred from the Truckee Meadows Community College library where I worked for eight years. I hold a Bachelors in General Studies with a minor in Museum Studies from the University of Reno, Nevada. I am passionate about librarianship and hope to see everyone in the research room.

### Generous Donation —

The Society would like to thank Jerry Fenwick, a long-time resident and supporter of the Nevada Historical Society for donating his latest exhibition

called **50 Years of Photography**. All the sale proceeds will be put into a restricted fund for the benefit of the Society. We have earned \$950 to date. The remaining images are on display in our store.

### Seeking Donations for Explosion Proof Freezer

The Society is asking for your help to replace our dead explosion proof freezer for the proper storage of our early negatives and films. Due to the travel & work needed to be done on the unit, it will be more cost effective to purchase a new one. However, we don't have the funds to get this accomplished.

**We need to raise \$4,000 in restricted donations.**

### History for the Holidays

One of our most popular events of the year is coming up on **Saturday, December 13th, 2014** from 11am to 4pm. There were so many requests from authors to participate that this year we will be closing the library to use the space. We will host 11 authors in our Research Library this year; what an

appropriate setting for our authors, many of whom have done research using our collections!

Additionally, we will have 11 artisans showcasing their crafts—from soap to leather, blown glass, jewelry, knitting, artwork and pottery. They will be placed throughout our permanent galleries in the museum. Don't miss these unique items for that special person!

### Toys for Tots—Drop Off Location

The Society is one of the drop off locations for the annual toy drive in Reno. We will have the box here until December 15th, 2014.

### Two New Conservation Supply Donations

We would like to thank AAUW for their \$200 restricted donation, allowing the Society to purchase archival supplies. The Genealogical Society of Reno is purchasing \$400 of Mylar used to encase maps, lithographs and other larger documents in the Library collection.

## Digitization News

We would like to introduce our two cataloging wizards for the **LSTA Emil Billeb Project**, Heather Casseday and Mary LaMorte.

As a Nevada native, I returned in 2009 after about 15 years away to gather experience in exhibitions and collections management with museums, galleries, and private collections from Seattle and Manhattan to London, Edinburgh, and Berlin. I specialize in photo preservation and collections management, so it is so nice to be working in my field especially

here on my home turf. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to contribute to the digitization of the Billeb Collection and to be a part of the goings-on here at the Nevada Historical Society.—Mary

A Bay Area expat, I moved to Reno in 2007 and started volunteering at the Society a year and a half ago to further indulge my interest in historical photography. Contrary to popular career advice, I've since left my previous field of chemistry to go back to school for art

history, and to work here on the Billeb Collection. I specialize in 19th century photographic methods, particularly early methods like daguerreotypes and ambrotypes, and my pride and joy is the Society's cased photo collection, which I organized, cataloged, and preserved over this past spring and summer. I have 2 cats and talk about them far more than is generally considered socially acceptable. They're pretty great.—Heather



Mary and Heather taking a break

## Education Department Notes

The Society is proud to announce that we continue to accommodate increasing numbers of students and groups through our facility.

2014 has seen an increase of more than 56% over 2013, with our wonderful education docents providing tours and presentations for 2239 students and adult education groups throughout the year.

Additionally, we are proud to have provided tours for 14 local schools and groups who have not visited the Society previously, and are excited that our History on Wheels program is being offered again.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested in joining our wonderful education docents in giving tours or visiting classrooms for historic presentations, please contact Carol Coleman, docent council president at [Carol@GalenaForest.Net](mailto:Carol@GalenaForest.Net).

If you would like to book a tour for a class, please call her at 775-688-1190 x231 or email Christine Johnson at [ckjohnson@nevadaculture.org](mailto:ckjohnson@nevadaculture.org).

We hope to continue to grow and provide these services to our community, and look forward to a booming 2015!



The Society was recognized in the  
2014 Best Awards by RN&R  
**Best Place to Get in Touch with Nevada**

## Museum Store News

The Society wants to thank Juil Dandini for her seven years of service, working as our Adm. Assistant for the Admissions, Store and Membership. She retired in early October and moved back to Georgia to be with family.

We are advertising for this position and are hopeful to have a new staff member in place by the end of December.

As for new things happening in the store, we are working on getting several new publications in the store, including Nevada Magazine.

We are working on stocking up the inventory as we gear up for our annual History for the Holidays event. This one day event, we offer a 20% on most products. What a great way to get people checked

off your Holiday shopping list and help support the Society!

We are offering different products for sale including a book on Antique Gaming Chips and the **American Gaming Archives Chip** (pictured right) that have been donated by AGA donors.

The funds generated through these sales will benefit the AGA restricted donation fund.

We are looking to add a larger variety of Made in Nevada, boutique, children's and Turquoise products. We are always looking for suggestions for new products to offer in our store. If you have any suggestions, please email Shery at [shayeszorn@nevadaculture.org](mailto:shayeszorn@nevadaculture.org).



AGA Chip



AGA Exhibit Display

## Library News

You never know what surprises will come your way when you answer the telephone at the Nevada Historical Society!

A woman from Sparks called us wondering what to do with a collection from Art Long, a writer for Variety Magazine who covered the Reno/Lake Tahoe region in the 1960s. We are pleased to have now acquired a photo album full of pictures of star

entertainers who performed locally and two scrapbooks containing copies of Long's articles and correspondence with the stars.

If you or anyone you know has a Nevada-related collection you think may be important to be preserved and made available to the public, please email Michael at [mmaher@nevadaculture.org](mailto:mmaher@nevadaculture.org) or call 775-688-1190 ext. 227 for more information.

## Exhibit Schedule

**7th Annual Latimer Art Club**  
October 10—December 13, 2014

**History for the Holidays**  
December 13, 2014  
11:00 am—4:00 pm

**Eric Holland—Hotels, Bars & Churches**  
January 16—May 15, 2015  
Free Reception Jan 16th 5:00—7:00pm

## Volunteering Opportunities

Did you know that we are always looking for volunteers?

The Society could not achieve what it does each year without the dedication and generosity of our wonderful Docents and volunteers.

Have you thought of volunteering? Are you willing to learn? Do you know someone who might be interested?

Specific types of help needed include: greeting the public, answering phones, museum store hosts, tour leaders, cataloguers, and data-entry. The photography & manuscript

departments are looking for detail-oriented folks who can help scan and catalog materials in each of these collections.

If any of this sounds interesting, our next docent training class is January 23rd, 2015 9-12pm. Please join us!

## Docent Meeting Lectures

**December 3—10am**  
Warren LeRude—Robert Laxalt: the Story of a Storyteller

**January 7—10am**  
Neil Brooks—Early Model Dairy Reno Lecture

**February 4—10am**  
Kelly Rigby—Flick Ranch House Lecture

## Notes from the Crypt

The Society recently received a donation of a Western saddle. Not only is the saddle of interest, but also its original owner.

The saddle has the maker's mark of Bools & Butler of Reno, Nevada. Bools & Butler saddles were manufactured beginning at the turn of the century, with a saddle factory established at 31 W. Plaza Street in Reno by 1910.

Another more famous saddle with this maker's mark remains on display presently at the Society—the Halsey Saddle—also made by Bools & Butler. However, the Halsey Saddle is on loan to the Society as part of Nevada's Sesquicentennial celebration.

The Society's new addition—the Ross saddle, however, will be a permanent part of the museum's artifact collection. In addition to the interest in the maker of the saddle is the original owner of the saddle, one Mr. Silas Ross.

Silas Ross (1887-1975) was a very active member of the Reno community, having graduated from the University in 1909, becoming a businessman partner in the Ross-Burke Mortuary (the Society has Ross-Burke funeral records in our Manuscript Collection) and later serving lengthy terms as a Reno city councilman and on the Board of Regents for UNR. He served as the Nevada Grand Master

and was a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason. Silas Ross gave this Bools & Butler Western saddle to the donors' family in 1969, prior to his death in 1975.

The donors of this saddle are proud to have this saddle become part of the oldest artifact collection in our state, and we at the Nevada Historical Society are equally proud to have such a unique and interesting artifact become part of our collection.



Detail of Saddle Makers Mark